

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 35 to page 12, line 14 of the specification with the following paragraph:

More specifically, the invention provides a method of separating and purifying a relatively long nucleic acid (e.g., 10 kb or longer, or more preferably 30 kb or longer) from the nucleic acid mixture containing nucleic acids having different lengths by using a membrane of a low surface-saponification rate (e.g., 50% or lower of surface-saponification rate). Furthermore, according to the invention, by using a porous membrane having a low surface-saponification rate (e.g., 50% or lower of surface-saponification rate) in combination with a porous membrane having a high surface-saponification rate (e.g., higher than 50% of surface-saponification rate, e.g., 100% of surface-saponification rate), there is provided a method for separating and purifying a relatively short (e.g., shorter than 10 kb ~~or shorter~~, more preferably 2 kb or shorter) nucleic acid from the nucleic acid mixture which contains nucleic acids having different lengths.